

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 2-13, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph for having insufficient information in the specification to support limitations concerning storing cookies in a repository.

As pointed out by the Examiner, the present invention's specification on page 3, lines 1-4 states:

After getting the response page, the proxy server first strips off any cookies set by the external web site from the response header. The cookies, owned by a particular session and identified by the session id, are typically stored in a cookie repository for subsequent requests within the session (page 3, L2-17).

Two steps are described. (1) cookies are stripped off by the proxy server and (2) stored in a cookie repository. The cookies being stored are the stripped off cookies. There is no other reasonable interpretation of the specification. It is not the case that "the cookies" could refer to any other cookie besides the stripped off cookie.

The phrase "owned by a particular session and identified by a session ID" merely indicates that the cookie repository uses the session ID to identify a stored cookie. As described in the present invention's specification (page 2, lines 21-26), in one embodiment, no session ID is assigned when the cookie is not stripped off. The session ID can be used to obtain a stored cookie from the repository and is not needed when the cookie is not stripped off; when the cookie is not stripped off, the cookie is just sent to the client.

In one embodiment, a proxy server can obtain pages from external web sites. Since some of the proxy server's clients cannot use cookies, in one example, the proxy server strips off the cookies set by the external web site from the response header. These cookies are then stored in a cookie repository for subsequent requests within the session. For example, in one embodiment, the proxy server can return cookies to the external web site, since the proxy server stores the cookies based upon the session ID. If the proxy server did not associate the stripped off cookies with a session ID, the proxy server would not be able to provide the correct cookie to the external web site. For this reason, the cookies are stored in the cookie repository associated with the session ID.

The phrase “Owned by a particular session and identified by the session ID”, means merely that the proxy server is able to provide the correct cookie to an external web site communicating with a client. For this reason, the Applicant respectfully disagrees that there is a contradiction between the specification and the claims. The claims and specification clearly state that the stored cookies are the stripped off cookies from the external web site.

Note that the remainder of the present invention’s specification supports this interpretation of the above paragraph. For example, the Summary of the Invention reads as follows:

The present invention is on methods and apparatus that can handle cookies for devices with limited memory capacity.

In one embodiment, this is done by a server, which centralizes cookie handling for browsers on a number of clients. Not only does the invention solve the problem of browsers that cannot handle cookies, the invention also protects the privacy of surfers by hiding their identities.

The Summary of the Invention describes the use of a cookie handling proxy server that centralizes cookie handling for a number of clients. It is clear that from the paragraph mentioned by the examiner, that the cookie handling function of the proxy server can be done using a cookie repository to store cookies from an external web site for clients that are unable to handle cookies.

There is also a grammatical argument that provides additional evidence. Commas are used in the middle of sentences to set off clauses, phrases and words that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. See paragraph 3 of the enclosed appendix, a Purdue grammar handout. For example, in the sentence “That Tuesday, which happens to be my birthday, is the only day when I am available to meet”. The phrase “which happens to be my birthday” is not used to modify the term “Tuesday” so it is set off by commas. On the other hand, in the sentence, “The book that I borrowed from you is excellent”. The phrase “that I borrowed from you” is not set off by commas because it indicates what specific book is excellent. The sentence in dispute in the present invention’s specification provides two independent pieces of information. The first piece of information is that “The cookies are typically stored in the cookie repository for subsequent request during the session”. The second piece of information is that “The cookies are owned by a particular session and are identified by the session ID”. If the phrase “Owned by a particular session and identified by the session ID” is to be an essential phrase that indicates

which particular cookies are stored in the cookie repository, then the phrase shouldn't be set off by commas.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner 6,085,224 in view of McGee, 6,393,468.

Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method to handle cookies in a response Web page requested by a client, the response Web page having a response header, the method comprising:

generating a session id to identify a new session;

stripping off any cookies set by an external web site from the response header of the response Web page and storing the cookies in a repository;

appending the session id to all of the links embedded in the response page; and sending the modified response page, with the new header, to the client.

Neither Wagner or McGee, alone or in combination include the limitations of claim 1.

One of the systems described in Wagner is a conventional system in which cookie data is received from an external web site server and stored in cache memory at the client browser. The web server puts the cookies into the header of a requested web page. The browser can then respond with a request including cookie information, because the cookie data is stored at the client. Wagner describes other systems in which the cookie data is discarded. One system deletes the cookie data from the HTTP header of an incoming file before it is passed to the browser program. An example of this type of system is described in column 2, lines 61-65 of Wagner.

Claim 1 includes stripping off cookies set by an external web site, storing the cookies in a repository and then sending a modified response page to the client. None of the cited references, alone or in combination include stripping off cookies and then sending a modified page to a client. For example, Wagner describes two different systems in which either the cookies are used normally or the cookies are thrown away. Neither system alone, together, or in combination with McGee would make obvious the above limitations of claim 1.

Additionally, none of the cited references describes appending an identifier to a link. For example, McGee describes replacing a URL information with a number which can be determined by a hash function. For example, in column 4, lines 13-18 of McGee, it is stated that an advantage of the McGee system reference is that the URL identifying information is not provided to the client, so that the client does not know the name of the location of the information of the information server and further items of the information. This would not be

the case if the information was appended to the URL as done in the present invention. For this additional reason, the combination of the McGee and Wagner references does not produce the system of claim 1.

Claims 2, reads as follows:

2. A method for handling cookies for a client browser, comprising:
generating a unique session id in response to a request from a client browser;
removing any cookies from a response page for the request and storing information contained in each cookie in a cookie repository; and
appending the unique session id to each URL in the response page before sending the response page to the client browser.

For the reasons discussed above, with respect to claim 1, the combination of McGee and Wagner dose not produce the system of claim 2. Claims 3-13 are dependent upon claim 2 and for that reason and additional limitations of these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 14 reads as follows:

14. A method for storing information for a client, comprising:
removing information from a document and storing that information in a repository;
appending an identifier to each link in the document and sending that document to the client, the identifier identifying the information being stored in the repository for the client.

Claim 14 includes the step of removing information from a document and appending an identifier to links in a document. Such a situation is not described, suggested or given a motivation for any of the cited references.

For the above described reasons, claims 1-14 are believed to be allowable is such is respectfully requested.

New added claim 15 reads as follows:

15. A method to handle cookies in a response Web page requested by a client, the response Web page having a response header, the method comprising:
generating a session id to identify a new session;
stripping off any cookies set by an external web site from the response header of the response Web page at a proxy server;
appending the session id to all of the links embedded in the response page;
sending the modified response page, with the new header, to the client;
receiving a page request for one of the links from the client;
at the proxy server, using the appended session id to construct a cookie header;
adding the cookie header to the page request.

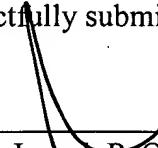
Claim 15 does not include a discussion of the cookie repository. Claim 15 is supported by the specification, especially by page 2, line 21 to page 3, line 17.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/17/04

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APPENDIX A



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Using Commas

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The comma is a valuable, useful punctuation device because it separates the structural elements of sentences into manageable segments. The rules provided here are those found in traditional handbooks; however, in certain rhetorical contexts and for specific purposes, these rules may be broken.

1. Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*.

The game was over, but the crowd refused to leave.

The student explained her question, yet the instructor still didn't seem to understand.

Yesterday was her brother's birthday, so she took him out to dinner.

2. Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause.

- a. Common starter words for introductory clauses that should be followed by a comma include *after, although, as, because, if, since, when, while*.

While I was eating, the cat scratched at the door.

Because her alarm clock was broken, she was late for class.

If you are ill, you ought to see a doctor.

When the snow stops falling, we'll shovel the driveway.

However, don't put a comma after the main clause when a dependent (subordinate) clause follows it (except for cases of extreme contrast).

1. ~~She was late for class, because her alarm clock was~~

~~broken.~~ (incorrect)

2. ~~The cat scratched at the door, while I was eating.~~

(incorrect)

3. She was still quite upset, although she had won the Oscar. (correct: extreme contrast)

b. Common introductory phrases that should be followed by a comma include participial and infinitive phrases, absolute phrases, nonessential appositive phrases, and long prepositional phrases (over four words).

Having finished the test, he left the room.

To get a seat, you'd better come early.

After the test but before lunch, I went jogging.

The sun radiating intense heat, we sought shelter in the cafe.

c. Common introductory words that should be followed by a comma include *yes, however, well*.

Well, perhaps he meant no harm.

Yes, the package should arrive tomorrow morning.

However, you may not be satisfied with the results.

3. Use a pair of commas in the middle of a sentence to set off clauses, phrases, and words that are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. Use one comma before to indicate the beginning of the pause and one at the end to indicate the end of the pause.

Here are some clues to help you decide whether the sentence element is essential:

- If you leave out the clause, phrase, or word, does the sentence still make sense?
- Does the clause, phrase, or word interrupt the flow of words in the original sentence?
- If you move the element to a different position in the sentence, does the sentence still make sense?

If you answer "yes" to one or more of these questions, then the element in question is nonessential and should be set off with commas. Here are some example sentences with nonessential elements:

Clause: That Tuesday, *which happens to be my birthday*, is the only day when I am available to meet.

Phrase: This restaurant has an exciting atmosphere. The food, *on the other hand*, is rather bland.

Word: I appreciate your hard work. In this case, *however*, you seem to have over-exerted yourself.

4. Do not use commas to set off essential elements of the sentence, such as clauses beginning with *that* (relative clauses). *That* clauses after nouns are always essential. *That* clauses following a verb expressing mental action are always essential.

That clauses after nouns:

The book *that I borrowed from you* is excellent.

The apples *that fell out of the basket* are bruised.

That clauses following a verb expressing mental action:

She believes *that she will be able to earn an A*.

He is dreaming *that he can fly*.

I contend *that it was wrong to mislead her*.

They wished *that warm weather would finally arrive*.

Examples of other **essential** elements (no commas):

Students *who cheat* only harm themselves.

The baby *wearing a yellow jumpsuit* is my niece.

The candidate *who had the least money* lost the election.

Examples of **nonessential** elements (set off by commas):

Fred, *who often cheats*, is just harming himself.

My niece, *wearing a yellow jumpsuit*, is playing in the living room.

The Green party candidate, *who had the least money*, lost the election.

Apples, *which are my favorite fruit*, are the main ingredient in this recipe.

Professor Benson, *grinning from ear to ear*, announced that the exam would be tomorrow.

Tom, *the captain of the team*, was injured in the game.

It is up to you, Jane, to finish.

She was, however, too tired to make the trip.

Two hundred dollars, *I think*, is sufficient.

5. Use commas to separate three or more words, phrases, or clauses written in a series.

The Constitution establishes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

The candidate promised to lower taxes, protect the environment,

reduce crime, and end unemployment.

The prosecutor argued that the defendant, who was at the scene of the crime, who had a strong revenge motive, and who had access to the murder weapon, was guilty of homicide.

6. Use commas to separate two or more coordinate adjectives that describe the same noun. Be sure never to add an extra comma between the final adjective and the noun itself or to use commas with non-coordinate adjectives.

Coordinate adjectives are adjectives with equal ("co"-ordinate) status in describing the noun; neither adjective is subordinate to the other. You can decide if two adjectives in a row are coordinate by asking the following questions:

- Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written in reverse order?
- Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written with *and* between them?

If you answer yes to these questions, then the adjectives are coordinate and should be separated by a comma. Here are some examples of coordinate and non-coordinate adjectives:

He was a difficult, stubborn child. (coordinate)

They lived in a white frame house. (non-coordinate)

She often wore a gray wool shawl. (non-coordinate)

Your cousin has an easy, happy smile. (coordinate)

The 1) relentless, 2) powerful 3) summer sun beat down on them. (1-2 are coordinate; 2-3 are non-coordinate.)

The 1) relentless, 2) powerful, 3) oppressive sun beat down on them. (Both 1-2 and 2-3 are coordinate.)

7. Use a comma near the end of a sentence to separate contrasted coordinate elements or to indicate a distinct pause or shift.

He was merely ignorant, not stupid.

The chimpanzee seemed reflective, almost human.

You're one of the senator's close friends, aren't you?

The speaker seemed innocent, even gullible.

8. Use commas to set off phrases at the end of the sentence that refer back to the beginning or middle of the sentence. Such phrases are free modifiers that can be placed anywhere in the sentence without causing confusion. (If the placement of the modifier causes confusion, then it is not "free" and must remain "bound" to the word it modifies.)

1. Nancy waved enthusiastically at the docking ship, laughing

joyously. (correct)

2a. ~~Lisa waved at Nancy, laughing joyously.~~ (incorrect: Who is laughing, Lisa or Nancy?)

2b. Laughing joyously, Lisa waved at Nancy. (correct)

2c. Lisa waved at Nancy, who was laughing joyously. (correct)

9. Use commas to set off all geographical names, items in dates (except the month and day), addresses (except the street number and name), and titles in names.

Birmingham, Alabama, gets its name from Birmingham, England.

July 22, 1959, was a momentous day in his life.

Who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC?

Rachel B. Lake, MD, will be the principal speaker.

(When you use just the month and the year, no comma is necessary after the month or year: "The average temperatures for July 1998 are the highest on record for that month.")

10. Use a comma to shift between the main discourse and a quotation.

John said without emotion, "I'll see you tomorrow."

"I was able," she answered, "to complete the assignment."

In 1848, Marx wrote, "Workers of the world, unite!"

11. Use commas wherever necessary to prevent possible confusion or misreading.

To George, Harrison had been a sort of idol.

Comma Abuse

Commas in the wrong places can break a sentence into illogical segments or confuse readers with unnecessary and unexpected pauses.

12. Don't use a comma to separate the subject from the verb.

~~An eighteen-year-old in California, is now considered an adult.~~
(incorrect)

~~The most important attribute of a ball player, is quick reflex actions.~~
(incorrect)

13. Don't put a comma between the two verbs or verb phrases in a compound predicate.

~~We laid out our music and snacks, and began to study.~~ (incorrect)
~~I turned the corner, and ran smack into a patrol car.~~ (incorrect)

14. Don't put a comma between the two nouns, noun phrases, or noun clauses in a compound subject or compound object.

~~The music teacher from your high school, and the football coach from mine are married.~~ (incorrect: compound subject)

~~Jeff told me that the job was still available, and that the manager wanted to interview me.~~ (incorrect: compound object)

15. Don't put a comma after the main clause when a dependent (subordinate) clause follows it (except for cases of extreme contrast).

1. ~~She was late for class, because her alarm clock was broken.~~ (incorrect)

2. ~~The cat scratched at the door, while I was eating.~~ (incorrect)

3. She was still quite upset, although she had won the Oscar. (correct: extreme contrast)

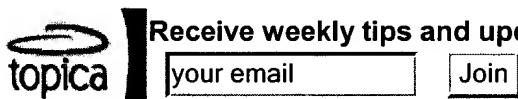
There are five interactive exercises on using commas that you can try:

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